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Kelley Denies Report on SWP

By Jerry Oppenheimer

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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said yesterday that the bureau's continuing investigation of the Socialist Workers party will be carried out by the General Investigative Division and not the Intelligence Division under his new reorganization plan.

Kelley issued the statement in response to a report in yesterday's New York Times that said the bureau intended to continue probing the SWP through its Intelligence Division.

The report contradicted Kelley's pledge last week to move all domestic intelligence investigations into the General Investigative Division where they would be "managed like all other criminal cases."

KELLEY'S DECISION was viewed by observers as a downgrading of the long-controversial investigations by the bureau of radical and dissident organizations. His announcement was hailed last week by Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights, which has oversight responsibility for the FBI.

Edwards said the transfer of domestic intelligence would return "the FBI's role in our society to one of law enforcement as opposed to monitoring citizens engaging in 1st Amendment-protected activities."

But the Times story, quoting Justice Department sources, said that the case of the Socialist Workers party would be retained within the intelligence division where it would be subject to a different set of investigative guidelines that cover counterintelligence inquiries.

IN HIS RESPONSE, Kelley did not comment on a portion of the Times report that said the probe of the SWP would be handled under classified Justice Department guidelines that apply to radical organizations with foreign political connections.

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~~OPG~~ Socialist Workers
Party